

The loosening of ownership restrictions in broadcast media thus far has benefited only a handful of companies who have profited from massive consolidation. Companies like Clear Channel, have found that their enormous acquisitions have paid off in staff reductions in small markets and decreasing local news stories. Local communities have suffered in ways that only now coming to light. They suffer when local voices and local news disappear and programming is consolidated or even repeated on several local outlets. They suffer when the companies that bought local stations become overextended and are forced to make even more budget and staff cuts. The vertical consolidation of programming sources (networks), automation equipment suppliers, traffic services, concert venues, and the satellite uplink companies into a single consolidated company (i.e., Clear Channel) would make the old Red and Blue Radio Networks, and RCA look weak by comparison. The listening public is against any further consolidation. ONLY the few remaining media corporations are for further consolidation.